

Application Serial No.: 10/724,430
Attorney Docket No.: 0140114

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the *Non-Final* Office Action of April 13, 2006, where the Examiner has allowed claims 1-18, objected to claims 22-24 and rejected claims 19-21, 25 and 26. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's statement regarding allowance of claims 1-18, and allowability of claims 22-24 if rewritten in independent form.

By the present amendment, new claims 27-40 have been added, claims 19, 23 and 24 have been amended, and claim 22 has been cancelled. After the present amendment, claims 1-21 and 23-40 are pending in the present application. Allowance of claims 19-21 and 23-40 in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 19-21 under 35 USC §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 19-21, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Handel (USPN 6,324,502) ("Handel").

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended independent claim 19 to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 22. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 19, as amended, and its dependent claims 20-21 are now in condition for allowance, based on the Examiner's statement that claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

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B. Rejection of Claims 25-26 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-26, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Handel.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25-26 depend from claim 19, as amended. Accordingly, claims 25-26 are also in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above in conjunction with patentability of claim 19, as amended.

C. New Claims 27-40

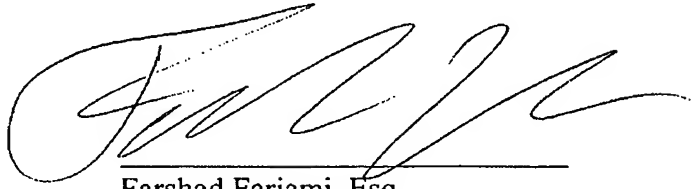
By the present amendment, applicant has added independent noise suppressor claim 27 and independent computer software program claim 34, which include the same limitations as those of independent claim 19, as amended. Further, claims 28-33 and 35-40 depend from claims 27 and 34, respectively, and include the same limitations as those of dependent claims 20-21 and 23-26, respectively. Accordingly, claims 27-40 are also in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above in conjunction with patentability of claim 19, as amended.

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D. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1-21 and 23-40 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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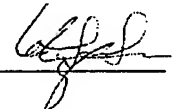
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed by facsimile transmission to United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (571) 273-8300, on the date stated below.

April 27, 2006
Date

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